



Happy Easter!



April 2017

8TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

I am pleased to present you with the 8th edition of the Societal Impact of Pain newsletter. The SIP symposium is fast approaching and I am very excited for what we can achieve this year. The level of support from the Maltese government, as well as from political stakeholders in the European Parliament and European Commission, continues to astound us.

At the European Pain Federation EFIC, this year has been a significant one in that we held our first Examination for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine. This is one of our educational activities to help increase awareness of the specificities of pain medicine across the medical profession. One of the crucial challenges for tackling the societal impact of pain is improving education and awareness raising, and hopefully our activities will help to achieve this.

Our partners from Pain Alliance Europe and Active Citizenship Network have their own ambitious and exciting awareness raising activities taking place this year, which you can read all about below.

Sincerely,

Prof. Bart Morlion
Director of the Multidisciplinary Pain Centre of the University of Leuven, Belgium
President Elect of the European Pain Federation (EFIC)

Events

Malta Health Network attends event with Martin Seychell

Gertude Buttigieg, who is the Honourary Secretary of the Malta Health Network, which is a co-operation partner for SIP 2017 met with Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General for DG Sante. This was during a meeting on the "Structured cooperation between Health Systems (Enhancing access to novel or highly specialised services), medicines & technologies". While attending the official meeting on the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, pain was discussed as a measurable outcome amongst the participants and the general consensus that European Reference Networks need to meet patient satisfaction outcome measures and that pain could be an indicator which is currently not included.



EU-Level Initiatives

"Pain Euro-Mediterranean Coalition", the new platform addressing the societal impact of pain

The eight policy recommendations coming from the SIP 2016 stood for an important starting point in the development of a better European policy addressing chronic pain management, and [Active Citizenship Network](#) appreciates the decision made by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) on December 2016 to add pain to its [agenda](#) .

However, it is crucial not only to identify priorities and recommendations, or get the commitment of the Institutions, but also to promote concrete activities involving all the stakeholders to transfer achievements in the European agenda into the European culture, including extra EU countries too. With the same aim, and – in general – to contribute to make chronic pain visible, [Sine Dolore](#) and Active Citizenship Network have promoted the "Pain Euro-Mediterranean Coalition".



Read the full article [here](#).



**sine
dolore**
ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE
PACIENTES CONTRA EL DOLOR



Patient Price agreement signed

Joop van Griensven (Pain Alliance Europe) welcomed participants and thanked all those involved with obtaining signatures for the Written Declaration on Access to Employment for those affected by neurological disorders and chronic pain conditions. Some 180 signatures were gathered, and while this is not enough for adoption of the Declaration by the European Parliament, this result is positive nevertheless. The work will continue as the Written Declaration will now become a Call to Action (#makeworkwork). Read the full report, courtesy of EFNA and PAE, [here](#).



Joop van Griensven (left), Norbert van Rooij (right)

EFIC host first exam for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine

Last week was a significant step forward for the European Pain Federation, as it held its first Examination for the [European Diploma in Pain Medicine](#). The creation of EFIC's [Core Curriculum](#) and Diploma are vital steps forward in spreading a greater understanding of pain medicine across Europe. EFIC are doing a great job in expanding their projects and capacities, which will hopefully lead to greater awareness and eventually a greater commitment from health systems to tackle the impact of pain on society. The Examination will take place again this year, and more news will be made available on their website soon.



National Initiatives

No Pain Foundation study gathering data on chronic pain in Malta

In order to implement congruent health-care policies there is an urgent need to evaluate the prevalence of Chronic Pain condition within the Maltese population and to explore how individuals perceive their pain, the impact it has on their lives, their perception of the attitudes of others towards their pain, treatments received and its adequacy.

Read more [here](#).



Announcements

Twitter feed goes live on the SIP Website

For all the latest news from the SIP platform <http://www.sip-platform.eu/news/latest-news-twitter.html>

For the event this year we will be using the official hashtag #SIP2017. To help raise awareness of the societal impact of pain make sure to use it on all your tweets at the symposium to get SIP trending.

Get involved at SIP 2017! Marketplace and Poster exhibition

This will be an informal area located in the foyer of the Grand Hotel Excelsior. No commercial promotion or products may be displayed during the Marketplace; in addition, all items that are displayed must be related to the Societal Impact of Pain. The marketplace will be open from the 7th to the 9th of June. Participants are responsible themselves for the production, transport and display of the posters.

The contents of the posters submitted for inclusion in the SIP Abstract booklet are subject to scientific approval by the European Pain Federation EFIC®. If you wish inclusion of a summary of the poster in the SIP Abstract booklet please contact the Secretariat at sip-platform@grunenthal.com no later than **April 21st**.

Upcoming Events

SIP 2017: Can Davids beat the Goliaths?

On June 7th 2017 prior to SIP on Malta, the [Global Alliance for Patient Access \(GAPPA\)](#) will host a three hour workshop focused on policy advocacy.

Learn how healthcare providers and their patients can work together to inform policymaking whether it be in Brussels, or your home country. The workshop will include a presentation on the keys to effective policy advocacy, a panel discussion featuring best practices and lobbying case studies, and an interactive breakout session. Learn why when it comes to policy advocacy, Davids can beat the Goliaths. Sign up today [here](#).



Contact us!

Questions? Need support? Wish to endorse or to publish on SIP Platform?

In case you should have any question regarding the newsletter's contents, please contact Prof. Bart Morlion, European Pain Federation EFIC President Elect: bart.morlion@uzleuven.be.

In case you would like to endorse the SIP Platform or to publish news on the SIP Website, please contact Norbert van Rooij (Grünenthal GmbH, Head of Governmental Affairs & Patient Centricity): sip-platform@grunenthal.com.

In case you should have any technical questions or need assistance, please contact Thomas Russell (Website Editor): sip-platform@grunenthal.com.

Find us on social media:



Imprint

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European Pain Federation EFIC®

Grensstraat 7, mailbox 3
1831 Diegem, Belgium
Tel : +32 2 251 55 10
Fax : +32 2 251 48 10

e-mail: secretary@efic.org
www.efic.org

EFIC EU Transparency Register ID Number: 35010244568-04

Grünenthal GmbH

Governmental Affairs & Patient Centricity
SBU Europe

Zieglerstraße 6
52078 Aachen
Deutschland
e-mail: sip-platform@grunenthal.com
www.grunenthal.com

Grünenthal EU Transparency Register ID Number: 67826544528-01
Regulatory agency: Bezirksregierung in 50606 Köln
Commercial register entry: Aachen HRB 3546
VAT identification number: DE121737755

For further information please click [here](#).